

Part 1 - Literacy Information

Kasapidis, William PCHS Task 3: Review the PDF from the National Institute for Literacy - this document will provide succinct information about Decoding, Morphology, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Text Comprehension. Reflect on new terms and strategies that will enhance your instructional practice.

The National Institute for Literacy document is a great resource for implementing literacy into any classroom. Some of the strategies if implemented correctly and efficiently can help the students become better writers and make use of their skills developed with these strategies in all subject areas.

One of the strategies I found that will help me enhance my instructional practice is the use of modeling phonemic awareness skills when introducing new vocabulary. Naturally, I have been using this technique since the day I started teaching but never understood the real importance of this implementation. As a visual arts teacher, I have introduced many new words to my students through the years. The vocabulary in the visual arts plays an important role in the understanding of the making of art. A student needs to know the terminology to be able to create the work at task. Students need to be able to use the vocabulary learned to explain their work, critique and assess the outcome of the project. I have always felt the need for the students to know the proper pronunciation of words but never really thought this was a skill that would help them become better writers, readers, and communicators. Phonemic skills do provide the student confidence in understanding and truly knowing the terms being used in the classroom.

A strategy that I have been using and continue to use in the classroom is guided oral readings. In the visual arts we have terms and vocabulary that is new to most readers. I have found that through guided oral reading I can identify those students who have an understanding of the terminology and the ones who are struggling with the terms and concepts. When a student struggles to read a word or a passage in the text, I stop and assist with the pronunciation of the word and/or the explanation of the sentence or paragraph that has been read. This helps any other students that are not grasping the written word and allows the students who understand to help their peers with learning by explaining what has been read.

Literacy in the classroom, no matter what subject area, plays an important role for the student's total understanding of that subject. Whether you're reading a history textbook or a novel on Van Gogh it is important that the student understand the words that are being read and can comprehend the meanings of those words for a full appreciating of what is being learned and/or taught. I feel the better I prepare my students for understanding the written word the more success they will be in the visual arts classroom and in fact for any classroom. We all have a responsibility to teach our students to be better writers and readers. No matter what subject we teach.